

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Why John learned to juggle

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

One day John saw some boys and girls fighting. They were yelling. They called each other names. They were hitting and pulling each other's hair.

John was afraid to go near them, but he wanted to get home. So he tried to run by.

However there was no way around them. So John pulled one boy out of the way and tried to run past them all.

"Hey you!" the boy yelled out. "Who do you think you are pushing around?"

A skirmish followed. John tried to stop the fighting. But they called him names and laughed at him.

Then John broke away and ran toward home. Half way down the street he stopped and turned to look back at the others. They had gone back to fighting with each other.

John opened the door to his house. His mother was shocked at his bruises. His shirt was even torn. "John," she cried, "what happened to you?"

John told her about the boys fighting in the street. "There must be a better way to have fun," John's mother said sadly.

A few days later John went with his mother to the farmers' market. It was exciting. John was captivated by a show in the marketplace.

There were jugglers and acrobats and magicians. John never had seen anything like it.

"I bet I could learn to do that," he said to himself as he watched the juggler. "And that, too," as he enjoyed the acrobats. "And even that," he said as the magician performed his tricks.

Back at home John set out to learn to do what the show people did. He practiced every moment he could between school and



greatest show on earth!" The rough boys and girls came out of curiosity.

John juggled balls and plates. He stood on his head and did somersaults. He walked on a tightrope. He performed magic tricks.

The children laughed and clapped. They liked what John did. He even taught them some of his tricks.

John told them stories. He took some from the Bible.

And when he grew up, John kept up his juggling and acrobatics and magic tricks. He continued to tell stories. He even started a school for children. He helped them to find a better way to live than by violence and fighting.

We remember him today as St. John Bosco.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, Scripture stories and original stories for children.)

chores. Soon he was good enough to put on a show of his own.

"Maybe I can help the boys and girls find a better way to have fun than to fight all the time," John thought.

He called out, "Come see the

a game

The Performer

a game

Fill in the blanks with the words written below. They will only fit one way. All of the words are from this week's children's story.

SOMERSAULTS
MAGICIAN
JUGGLER
ACROBATS
TRICK
SHOW

HOW ABOUT YOU?

- When people become angry with each other, what should they do? Is there anything they can do to understand each other better?
- John Bosco is remembered today as a saint. Are you surprised to know there was a saint who knew how to juggle and do magic tricks?

Children's Reading Corner

"The Grouchy Ladybug" is a delightful book by Eric Carle. Children and adults might enjoy reading it together. In the story, a grouchy ladybug doesn't want to share with a friendly ladybug and starts to pick a fight. When the friendly ladybug agrees to fight, the grouchy ladybug decides she isn't big enough and goes off to challenge someone else. Eleven of the 12 creatures she meets along the way agree to fight with her, but she — thinking that she can't win — tells each one they aren't big enough. When she meets the 12th creature, a whale, she becomes aware that it is much better to be friendly than it is to fight. (Thomas Y. Crowell Co. Inc., 666 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. 1977. Hardback.)



Discovery

Guiding children along the road of Christian discovery is the highest priority of Father Forest McAllister. O.F.M. With funding from the Catholic Church Extension Society, he serves the spiritual needs of those who live in isolated communities high in New Mexico's mountainous terrain.

Father McAllister is one of a team of home missionaries who, in partnership with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the United States. But the team is too small to do the job without help. It

needs new members. It needs you.

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